

KEEPING YOU POSTED ON LOCAL NEWS

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**\$2.00** | The Week of January 31, 2025

## The Return of the 'Desert Cross'

### A Celebration of Art and Homecoming

Story and photos by Rachel Dahl

Last week, the Churchill Arts Council hosted a significant event resonating with artistry, memory, and a deep sense of homecoming. The celebrated ceramic masterpiece Desert Cross, by John Mason, a Fallon native and international art figure, was formally welcomed back to its rightful place in Fallon, Nevada. The evening was filled with heartfelt stories, memories, and an appreciation for Mason's artistic career and connection to the community.

Ted McDonald, chairman of the Churchill Arts Council, opened the event by recognizing the significance of the evening. "The Desert Cross is where

it's supposed to be—where it will be respected and revered," McDonald said. "As a retired physician who has had the opportunity to see what the insides look like, when I see the alcove, I see the cavity that the heart rests in. So right now, the Desert Cross is where it's supposed to be."

As the Churchill Arts Council approaches its 40th anniversary, the return of the Desert Cross marks a pivotal moment in its history. McDonald reflected on the council's growth and evolving mission. "This building and this organization are like a flower—opening up to the public, to artists, and to the community," he said.

The Desert Cross, which had been removed from Oats Park without authorization by a former director, was most recently housed at the Lilley Museum at the University of Nevada, Reno. It was returned to Fallon through the efforts of the Mason family, UNR President Brian Sandoval, Mayor Ken Tedford, and the City of Fallon team.

Born in 1927 in Madrid, Nebraska, John Mason moved to Fallon as a child and grew up on a farm near the Truckee Canal in Hazen. Andrew Perchuk, deputy director at the Getty Research Institute,



X marks the spot. Mayor Tedford and UNR President Brian Sandoval.

said Mason's rural upbringing shaped his artistic vision, as he often explored the landscape and carved objects from the natural clay and soil of the Great Basin.

"John never forgot Nevada," Perchuk said. "He told me stories about growing up on a farm here, riding horses. That's why he wanted to donate the Desert Cross—in recognition of his happy childhood."

Sean Rowe, City of Fallon attorney who assisted in the return of the Desert Cross, said that despite struggling with illness as a teenager, Mason's time in Fallon nurtured his creativity.

Influenced by teachers George Jurgens and Tom Haskel, Mason explored photography, music, and writing. "John wrote a column in the Fallon Eagle, one of our two newspapers at the time, giving insight into the happenings of the high school, introducing teachers, and highlighting school events. The writing is straightforward, clear, and often includes a bit of wry humor or mischief," Rowe said.

After graduating, Mason moved to Los Angeles, where he became a pioneering figure who revolutionized ceramics by transforming functional pottery into monumental sculptural art. "He transformed ceramics from small objects and pots to sculptures that could rival anything in size and ambition," Perchuk said. "He was so ahead of his time that it took decades for his work to be truly recognized."

Mason was known for his innovative techniques, such as using industrial tools like bread mixers and fish-packing humidifiers to shape massive clay forms. His pieces often reflected the geometric beauty of the desert and the interplay of light and texture, making them uniquely tied to his roots.

The Desert Cross, donated to the city of Fallon in the 1960s, is one such work. Created during Mason's transition from functional

[Desert Cross continued on page 2]

## Avian Influenza Detected in Dairy Cows in Churchill County, Milk Supply Remains Safe

Staff Report

In a first for Nevada's dairy-rich Churchill County, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) has been detected in local dairy cattle – primarily comprised of Holstein and Jersey breeds, according to the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA). While the news may cause concern in a community with the highest concentration of dairies in the state, officials emphasize that milk supplies remain safe, and the affected cattle have been quarantined.

Churchill County is home to a significant portion of Nevada's dairy production, making this detection particularly notable. In collaboration with industry members, the NDA conducts regular onsite testing to ensure herds are free of the virus before lifting the quarantine.

[ Avian Influenza continued on page 2 ]

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#### FROM THE PUBLISHER

## Captain's Log

#### Fastest in the West

By Rachel Dahl

We almost decided not to have a Captain's Log, but I've never not written one. One time the "crew" wrote it when I was some sort of infirm. Or just buried. Like this week. We'll go with some sort of infirm.

Probably I'm getting the germs that have been overtaking the community. I don't need to tell you, but we'll document for posterity the virus that is the clogged face, the horrible fever and chills, the lingering week-long cough. When it gets really bad, pneumonia. I've been binge eating Zicam and vitamin C, trying to sleep early and often, but today I'm mentally beating it off with a large stick.

The best course of action here today is to finish this quickly and leave plenty of room for the photos from the Desert Cross event.

So while I make room for those, I'll be over here with my box of tissues and will as always be...  $\,$ 

...Keeping you Posted.

\_\_\_ Lack

 $[\ Desert\ Cross\ continued\ from\ page\ 1\ ]$ 

ceramics to sculptural art, it embodies the expansive spirit of the West. "The Desert Cross reflects the textures and light of the desert. It speaks deeply to this region and its people," Perchuk said.

In his remarks, Mayor Ken Tedford shared how he was first impacted by art. He described a getaway trip to San Francisco with his former wife, where they stumbled upon the San Francisco Philharmonic Orchestra playing an outdoor concert. "It stopped me in my tracks. We stood there in the light of the San Francisco afternoon with the artists, the audience, and their instruments, and for a fleeting moment I was called into an artistic, cultural presence. It grabbed me and stopped me. My takeaway from that moment was that great art changes the way you encounter your world," Tedford said.



Chairman Ted McDonald with event guests. Photos by Rachel Dahl.

UNR President Brian Sandoval highlighted the collaborative effort behind the sculpture's return, sharing that the Nevada Board of Regents voted unanimously to approve the transfer. "This is more than just an artwork; it's a piece of shared history," Sandoval said.

Vernita Mason, John Mason's widow, attended the event and expressed gratitude to the Fallon community for honoring her husband's legacy. During a video shown to the audience, she read from the congressional recognition given on the occasion of Mason's retirement, underscoring his lasting influence on the art world.



Mason featured in the New York Times.



Pat Getto and Michon Mackedon.

The Desert Cross will remain in the alcove Valerie Serpa created for it during the building's restoration. It will serve as a symbol of the community's rich artistic heritage, inspiring future generations to explore their creativity while staying connected to their roots.

Tedford explained that for the community of Fallon, the return of the Desert Cross represents not just the reclamation of a work of art but the restoration of a piece of the town's cultural identity. "It is a familiar piece called by different names—whether the Desert Cross or the Mason Cross. Whatever it was called, it is an X that marks this space as a place where art and viewer meet at a crossroads. Where artists and audiences intersect in a conversation about the arts," Tedford said.

[ Avian Influenza continued from page 1 ]

"Ensuring the safety of the industry is our utmost priority," said NDA State Veterinarian Dr. Peter Rolfe. "We're working closely with dairies to enhance biosecurity measures and protect both animal and worker health."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that the risk to humans remains low, and officials have reassured residents that pasteurized milk and dairy products remain entirely safe for consumption. According to the USDA, pasteurization effectively eliminates any potential threat from HPAI.

"Fallon residents should continue to follow standard food safety practices—consume only pasteurized dairy products and cook meat to appropriate temperatures," Dr. Rolfe added. HPAI, which has now been detected in 16 states since March 2024, typically presents mild symptoms in cows, such as reduced milk production, coughing, or decreased feed consumption. Livestock owners are encouraged to remain vigilant and report any signs of illness to a veterinarian.

For livestock workers, symptoms can include fever, eye irritation, or mild respiratory issues. Anyone feeling unwell is urged to seek medical attention. Personal protective equipment is available through the Central Nevada Health District by calling 775-867-8181.

Fallon's dairy industry is taking every precaution to safeguard public health and animal welfare.

#### **FEATURES**

## The Great Basin Bull Sale

### A Legacy of Ranching in Northern Nevada



File photo, Nevada range cattle.

By Leanna lehman

Many things draw newcomers to Fallon. Too many to number, to be sure. A few things are on the list, like the feeling people get from being here. Northern Nevada is different - unique in its rolling alfalfa fields, endless sage, and high mountain desert beauty. Of course, there is the gentler pace of small-town life. However, one thing stands out and separates us from every other small American town—our traditions.

Traditions give our communities shape and texture, experiences we look forward to and have grown to love – traditions like the Cantaloupe Festival, the Christmas Tree Lighting, our rodeos, and fall football. With a history rooted in agriculture and ranching, it is no wonder the Great Basin Bull Sale is also part of Fallon's heritage.

Fallon's Great Basin Bull Sale, held annually, is a premier event for the region's cattle industry. In addition to Nevada ranchers, the event draws cattle producers from northern California, southern Oregon, and Idaho. In 2022, Lucy Rechel of Snyder Livestock and the Nevada Cattlemen's Association handed over the reins to Charlie Hone, Kris Gudel and Dave Holden, who wanted to continue the Bull Sale legacy. Thus, the Great Basin Bull Sale was born.

While this is the only third event for the newest iteration, the "Bull Sale" has been part of Fallon's history since 1966. Formerly the Fallon All-Breeds Bull Sale, the event allowed ranchers to purchase high-quality bulls from breeders raising cattle suitable for Nevada range conditions. Initially organized by the Nevada Cattlemen's Association, the Bull Sale has become a Western heritage event, drawing consignors and visitors from the region and beyond.

According to Nevada cattleman Davy Stix, bull sales have always involved "sifting," a process to eliminate bulls that fail to demonstrate range readiness. Imagine an auction for bulls that are bred and tested for specific qualities. Ranchers come with checkbooks, studying each bull's performance "resume," hoping to find the right bull for their herd with strong genetics that could help improve their herd's overall health and longevity. "Nevada range cattle must be bred to withstand the area's extreme conditions and rough terrain," Stix explained.

Big money trades hands at the Bull Sale, says Rafter 3C Arena Operations Deputy Jesse Segura, with about \$860,000 exchanged at the first event in 2023. Segura anticipates an increase to about \$1.2 million this year. He also expects the three-day event to draw 1,200 to 1,600 people to Fallon, boosting revenue for local merchants. With the Bull Sale on the heels of two major wrestling events, the community will see upwards of 10,000 visitors in three weeks.

Historically, the Bull Sale also included dinner. The Fallon CowBelles (local Nevada Cattlewomen), no longer active, were notorious for cooking phenomenal Bull Sale dinners. Fear not, friends, a fully catered dinner is also on this year's event schedule. Troy's Double Shot Bar, which catered the Roughy Top Gun New Year's Eve Bull Riding meal, will handle this year's catering. Only sold as tables for eight at \$800, Segura promises a fantastic feast and expects a sell-out.

Of course, the Bull Sale wouldn't be "The Bull Sale" without a dance. C3 secured something extra special for 2025 – The Bellamy Brothers, live. "We're not trying to just have a concert," said Segura, "We wanted something that speaks to the people." According to Segura, who estimates 500 people on the floor for dinner and dancing, the Bellamy Brothers understand cattle people. While many of the younger attendees may be unfamiliar with the bands' popularity in the '70s and '80s, much of the crowd will have no trouble recalling Bellamy Brothers greats like "Redneck Girl," "Let Your Love Flow," and "Old Hippie."

A free admission Ranch Rodeo will kick off with a team branding competition on Thursday, February 13, at 5:30. Family ranches have been hosting large gatherings for generations, in which crews from neighboring ranches lend a hand to "gather" and mark the livestock with the ranch brand – branding. The gatherings included cowhands, cooks, and kids, with large meals, songs, and storytelling. Many ranches continue the tradition today. While branding is dirty, hard work, it also honors ranch life and the American West.

Friday morning, the crowd can look forward to classic ranch rodeo events, with the Ranch Broncs and Mini Bulls performance slated for Friday night. This year's stock is coming from Yerington stock contractors Nathan Pudsey and Bryon Masini, with Fallon's Justin Snow providing the mini bulls for youth Bull Riding.

"The ranch rodeo is a qualifier for the Western States ranch rodeo finals," said Segura, indicating several contestants coming from out of state to participate. "It's 100% payback, too." The rodeo promises a \$2,500 added purse in the ranch events and \$2,000 added in the Ranch Bronc Riding.

If a bull sale, dinner, dance, and Ranch Rodeo isn't enough to entice you to stop by, consider visiting the trade show featuring a wide variety of vendors and items to make this event fun for all.

Tickets include the concert, mini bull riding, and ranch bronc riding, with gates opening at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, February 14. To purchase tickets, visit Churchill County Parks & Recreation on Sheckler Road or Rafter3Carena.org (\$35 for adults and \$10 for children), and \$40 at the gate.

Ranchers may attend the Bull Sale to improve their herds and gain a bit of an edge in an unpredictable economy. However, the Great Basin Bull Sale represents more than just industry; it celebrates connection and tradition. While large cattle producers often dominate the livestock market, it is ranchers who carry forward the West's rich heritage for future generations. Join in and experience one of Fallon's oldest and most beloved traditions.



Notice of Availability of a Final
Environmental Assessment (EA) and
Finding of No Significant Impact
(FONSI) for Construction and
Operation of Public Private Venture
Housing at Naval Air Station (NAS) Fallon,
located in Churchill County, Nevada
(EA-007-17-USN-1700467201)

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508) implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), U.S. Department of the Navy (Navy) NEPA regulations (32 CFR Part 775), and Chief of Naval Operations Manual-5090.1, the Navy gives notice that a Final EA and FONSI have been prepared for the proposed construction and operation of Public Private Venture (PPV) Housing at NAS Fallon, located in Churchill County, Nevada. The Navy proposes to amend existing agreements with San Diego Family Housing, Limited Liability Company (SDFH), to include the leasing of additional Government land from the Navy into the SDFH leasehold, as well as construction, operation, and maintenance of 172 new PPV privatized military family housing units at NAS Fallon. The Proposed Action would address the lack of housing for active-duty military members assigned to NAS Fallon and their families by providing new housing units. The proposed PPV housing development would be located on undeveloped NAS Fallon property north of existing PPV housing and along Pasture Road. The site location is adjacent to the NAS Fallon Child Development Center, approximately 600 feet west from the NAS Fallon main gate on Churchill Avenue.

Interested parties may review the Final EA and FONSI at the local library (Churchill County Library, 553 S Maine St, Fallon, NV 89406) and on the Navy Region Southwest website at:

https://cnrsw.cnic.navy.mil/Operations-and-Management/Environmental-Support/Public-Information-Access-to-Navy-Projects/NASF-Environmental-Assessment-PPV-Housing/.

In addition, a copy can be requested by contacting Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Southwest:

- Via email: amanda.t.peyton.civ@us.navy.mil
- Via mail: Attn: Amanda Peyton
   Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Southwest
   750 Pacific Highway (12th Floor, Environmental)
   San Diego, California 92132-5190

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#### ANNOUNCEMENTS



#### PETS OF THE WEEK

#### Meet Mocha!



Meet Mocha, the 14-16-year-old cat who proves age is just a number. Despite being a senior, Mocha's zest for life is unmatched. He's playful, always chasing toys and showing off his kitten-like energy. Wet food is his favorite; he'll remind you when it's time to eat with

an adorable meow. He's happiest when held, soaking up all the cuddles and pets he can get. Mocha is a reminder that no matter your age, there's always room for play, love, and connection!

Fallon Animal Welfare Group is a 501(c)(3) charity supporting the welfare of cats in Churchill County, NV.

FAWG Fallon Animal Welfare Group 4629 Reno Hwy, Fallon 775-217-4745 For barn cats call Pat 775-217-7248

#### CAPS Animal Spotlight

"Buddy is a oneyear-old Husky with a playful spirit and a heart full of love. This active but shy boy thrives on running, playing, and getting lots of attention. He has become fearful of new people, so he will need a patient family who is willing to give him time to adapt and get comfortable. Buddy does fine with cats



and other dogs. He's looking for an active and patient household where he can enjoy plenty of love, exercise, and interaction. If you're ready for a loyal companion to keep you on your toes, Buddy is your guy!"

Churchill Animal Protection Society 5894 Pasture Rd, Fallon 775-423-7500 | capsnevada.org

#### City of Fallon Animal Shelter



This is Azula (D-36). She's a happy but shy girl, who warms up quickly. Azula is around 8 months old, and we were told Lab mix. With help from our fabulous volunteers, she is getting better at walking on a leash.

If you think Azula would make a good addition to your household, please give us a call, or come check her out.

City of Fallon Animal Shelter 1255 Airport Rd, Fallon | 775-423-2282

## Churchill County Library's February Happenings

Stay warm this winter by exploring the Churchill County Library's free programs, books, and online resources. Whether you're looking for activities for children, opportunities to learn, or time to unwind, the library has something for everyone. Note that the library will be closed on Monday, February 17, in observance of Presidents' Day.

All programming is free and open to the public. Here's a look at February's events:

#### FOR CHILDREN

- 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten: Help your little ones reach the goal of reading 1,000 books before starting school. Children are recognized for every 100 books read. Sign up anytime at bit.ly/CCL1000BBK.
- Reading with Rover: Join the library on February 13 at 3:30 p.m. to practice reading with the best listeners—therapy dogs! Participants can keep the book they read. This program is geared toward ages 6-11 but open to all.
- STEAM Fridays: Every Friday at 1:30 p.m., kids can explore science, technology, engineering, art, and math through fun, hands-on activities.

  Designed for ages 5-11, but all are welcome.
- Storytime with Miss J: Weekly storytime sessions happen on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. and Thursdays at 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. Miss J reads picture books and offers crafts to complement the stories. Geared toward ages 3-5, but all children are welcome.
- Elementary Book Club: Kids in grades 3-5 can join the book club on February 28 at 2 p.m. in the Library Annex. Reserve your spot at bit.ly/ CCLElementaryBookClub.

#### FOR ADULTS

• Senator Rosen's Office Hours:

- A representative from Senator Rosen's office will be available on February 13 at 1 p.m. to hear community concerns.
- Crafting for Grownups: Join the library on February 13 at 4 p.m. to create "Swedish hearts."
- Adult BYOB(ook) Club: Share what you're reading or recently read on February 27 at 4 p.m.
- Spice Club: February's featured spice is cloud forest cardamom.

#### FOR ALL AGES

- Tech Demos: Every Tuesday at 3:30 p.m., explore new technology like virtual reality, drones, stop-motion animation, and 3D printing. Participants under 18 need a parent-signed permission form, and patrons 10 and up can try VR. Sign up at bit.ly/CCLTechDemos.
- Game Night: Bring your family or join solo on Wednesdays at 4 p.m. for board games supplied by the library, or bring your own.

#### OTHER LIBRARY SERVICES

- Free desktop computer access, with printing and photocopying available for a small fee.
- Online resources include Rosetta Stone, World Book, Libby, Hoopla, and Kanopy. These tools let you learn a new language, explore educational content, or download movies, audiobooks, and music.

#### LIBRARY HOURS

The Churchill County Library is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Sundays and major holidays.

Visit the library at 553 South Maine Street, Fallon, or call (775) 423-7581 for more information. Programming is subject to change, so check www.churchill-countylibrary.org for updates.

# Movies & More at the Historical Fallon Theatre February 7 & 8



As January comes to a close and we head into February, we're wrapping up the "Despicable Me" series here at the theatre and getting ready for a month filled with "Shrek" – it's going to be a blast! We're also excited about two big events coming up in February. On February 7 at 7 p.m., we'll be hosting a free Galentine's Concert Evening with The Domesticated Man Band, followed by a screening of "Mamma Mia!" Then on Saturday, February 8, join us for our annual "Love Your Theatre" Valentine's Fun Run/Walk 5K fundraiser at 9 a.m. We can't wait to see you all there!

This weekend, we'll show "Despicable Me 4" at 6 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Gru, Lucy, Margo, Edith, and Agnes are joined by a new family member, Gru Jr., who's determined to make life difficult for his dad. Meanwhile, Gru faces off against a new villain, Maxime Le Mal, and his girlfriend Valentina, forcing the family to go on the run. This film is rated PG and runs for 1 hour and 34 minutes.

At 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, we're screening "Deadpool & Wolverine," rated R, featuring Disney's iconic

super-antihero and mutant mercenary. Ryan Reynolds returns as Deadpool, who's offered a spot in the Marvel Cinematic Universe by the Time Variance Authority. Instead, he recruits a variant of Wolverine, played by Hugh Jackman, to help save his universe from destruction. The film runs for 2 hours and 8 minutes.

As mentioned earlier, on February 8, we'll be hosting our annual "Love Your Theatre" Valentine's Fun Run/Walk 5K fundraiser. The event will kick off at 9 a.m. on Maine Street, right in front of the theatre. Pre-registration costs are \$25 per person or \$40 per couple. You can find registration details on our Facebook page or at fallontheatre.com. Registration forms are also available for pickup in person at Kent's Supply Center.

Along with our free movies and exciting events, we also offer our beautifully refurbished marquee for special messages. If you're interested in booking a Marquee Message or reserving an auditorium for a party, feel free to leave us a message at 775-423-6210 or email us at thefallontheatre@gmail.com.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS



#### **Obituary**

MARYELLYN JACOBSEN

April 11, 1926 - January 20, 2025

MaryEllyn Jacobsen, a beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and greatgreat-grandmother, peacefully passed away at home on January 20, 2025, at the age of 98. She lived a full, beautiful life, touching the hearts of all who knew her.

Born on April 11, 1926, in San Jose, California, to Leo and Mary Schneider, MaryEllyn's story began with a journey her family made from Fallon, Nevada, where they lived, so her mother could be with her daughter during the birth of little MaryEllyn, the youngest of the five Schneider children. Raised on the family ranch in the Wildes District, near the Naval Air Base in Fallon, MaryEllyn graduated from Churchill County High School. In 1944, she met the love of her life, Keith (Jake) Jacobsen, while he was stationed with the Navy in Fallon. Their love blossomed, and they were married on October 20, 1944, beginning a family and a life full of love and cherished memories.

MaryEllyn and Jake made Fallon their home, raising four children: Dianne, Linda, Susan, and Randy. Their lives were rich with love and adventure, filled with camping trips, fishing outings, and quality time spent with family and friends. MaryEllyn's involvement in her community was deep, as the longest-living member of Epworth United Methodist Church and an active participant in the Fallon Clover Leaf Club, Good Sam's Club, and TOPS Club. She dedicated many years of service volunteering for her church and Fallon Industries. A true lover of the outdoors and baseball, MaryEllyn cherished taking her family on camping and fishing trips and was a constant presence at her grandchildren's sports events and activities. Whether it was softball, baseball, or any other sport, you could always count on her being there to cheer them on. Some of the family's most treasured memories are of trips in the motorhome, with Jake and MaryEllyn at the wheel, creating lasting memories while supporting their grandkids in all their adventures.

MaryEllyn is joined in rest by her parents, Leo and Mary Schneider; her husband, Jake Jacobsen; her siblings, Emmy Dwyer, Lida Mills, Bill Schneider, Bob Schneider; and son-in-law, Paul Harp. She is survived by her children, Dianne (Jack) Wickizer, Linda Harp, Susan (David) Hurd, Randy (Denise) Jacobsen; grandchildren Greg (Debbie) Wickizer, Jackie (Brian) Draper, Debbie (Darrell) Irvin, Kris (Randy) White, Don Hornby, Dawna (Rob) Rosenberg, Scott (Tara) Hurd, Amanda (Andrew) Rothwell, Laura (Ernie) Pomin and Alexander Jacobsen. She will be greatly missed by her 18 greatgrandchildren and her eight great-grandchildren. She is also survived by several wonderful nieces and nephews.

A celebration of MaryEllyn's life will take place on Tuesday, January 28, 2025, at 11 am at Epworth United Methodist Church, located at 280 E. Stillwater Avenue in Fallon, Nevada. Following the service, she will be laid to rest at the Fallon Cemetery. A lunch reception will be held at the Wolf Center annex of the church after the burial.

In place of flowers, the family encourages donations in memory of MaryEllyn to be made to Epworth United Methodist Church.

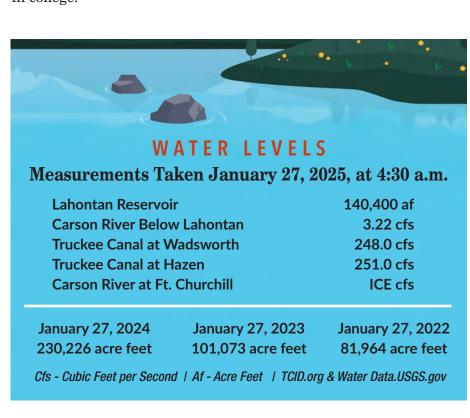
## **CCHS Intern Spotlight**



Alibi Davis at Big R.

Story and photo by Dr. Sue Segura

Alibi Davis is our intern of the week. She has been working at Big R, one of Churchill County High School Partners, since 2022. Alibi says she likes Big R because she loves talking to her senior customers and likes the people she works with. After she graduates in May, Alibi plans to go to Cosmetology School or study Fine Arts in college.



#### MEETINGS February 3-7, 2025

Fallon City Council Tuesday, Feb. 4 at 9 a.m. 55 W. Williams Ave. City Hall

County Meetings 155 N. Taylor St. Commission Chambers

Debt Management Commission Monday, Feb 3 at 4:30 p.m. Board of County Commissioners Thursday, Feb. 6 at 8:15 a.m.



Parks & Recreation Commission Tuesday, Feb. 4 at 7 p.m.

# SENIOR CENTER MENU

Monday, February 3

Sloppy Joes on WW Bun
Baked Beans
Baby Carrots

Fruit Cocktail

Tuesday, February 4

BBQ Pork Patty Scalloped Potato Collard Greens Spiced Applesauce Butterscotch Pudding WW Bread Wednesday, February 5

WILLIAM N. PENNINGTON LIFE CENTER 952 S. MAINE STREET, FALLON, NV | 775-423-7096

Lunch Served Monday - Friday 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. | Lunch is \$6 for those under 60 and a suggested donation of \$3 for those 60 and older.

Baked Chicken w/Sherry Mushroom Sauce Wild Rice Medley Green Beans Apricot Halves Fresh Apple Thursday, February 6

Breaded Fish
Mac and Cheese
Garden Vegetable Blend
Jell-O w/Pears
Tartar Sauce
Mandarin Orange

Friday, February 7
All-Beef Chili LS Hot Dog

All-Beef Chili LS Hot Dog WW Bun Cheese /Onions BBQ Baked Beans Mixed Veggies Peaches

#### FALLON DAILY BREAD

WOLF CENTER | 457 ESMERALDA AVE., FALLON NV | 775-423-4714 Meals are served Mondays and Thursdays from 5 - 6 p.m.

Monday, February 3

Taco Bar
Rice & Salad

**Thursday, February 6** *Rotary Night* 

Monday, February 10

Turkey Pot Pie

Bread & Salad

Thursday, February 13
Grilled Cheese Sandwiches
Tomato Soup

Dessert

Volunteer groups
needed to help serve
once per month,
3 p.m. until 6:30 p.m.
Call for information.

#### COMMUNITY

## Nevada HEAL Program to Attract Healthcare Providers to Rural Communities

Staff Report

The Nevada State Treasurer's Office has introduced a new program aimed at addressing the shortage of healthcare providers in rural and underserved communities across the state.

On Jan. 13, Nevada State Treasurer Zach Conine announced the launch of the Nevada Health Equity & Loan Assistance (HEAL) Program. The program offers up to \$120,000 in student loan repayment for healthcare providers who commit to serving in underserved communities for a minimum of five years.



The Nevada HEAL Program stems from the passage of Assembly Bill 45 during the 2023 legislative session. The bill was sponsored by Conine following a statewide listening tour to identify critical healthcare needs.

"After traveling the entire state after the COVID-19 pandemic, it became abundantly clear that we need to be doing everything we can to bring healthcare professionals to our most underserved communities," Conine said. "The Nevada HEAL Program will be a critical component to ensuring we can attract the providers we need to increase access to care for residents across the state."

Healthcare providers approved for the program will be required to practice in rural or underserved urban communities in Nevada. To be eligible for the program, participants must be residents of Nevada and work in an eligible healthcare profession. They must also be licensed, certified, and/or registered to practice in Nevada and commit to practicing in an underserved community for at least five years.

The program is open to a wide range of healthcare professionals. These include audiologists, clinical professional counselors, dentists, doulas, emergency medical technicians, nurses, licensed attendants, midwives, optometrists, paramedics, and perfusionists. Pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, physicians, physician assistants, practitioners of respiratory care, psychologists, and social workers are also eligible to participate.

For more information about the Nevada HEAL Program and how to apply, visit the Nevada State Treasurer's Office website.

## WNC Welcomes New Nursing Director

## Dr. Audrey Auer

Courtesy of Steve Yingling, WNC Public Relations

Western Nevada College is proud to introduce Dr. Audrey Auer as the new Nursing and Allied Health director. With 17 years of experience in higher education and 30 years in the nursing field, Dr. Auer brings invaluable expertise to WNC's esteemed program.

"Dr. Auer's nursing journey began with a community college associate degree, inspiring her to pursue a BSN, MSN, and PhD," said WNC Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs Dr. Dana Ryan. "Having worked in both urban and rural settings, she has designed culturally responsive education programs tailored to community needs. This background equips Dr. Auer to connect with and support our diverse students, faculty, and region."

Before joining WNC, Dr. Auer was the Assistant Dean of Nursing at Arizona College of Nursing's Las Vegas campus, overseeing an accelerated BSN program with more than 500 students and 50 faculty members. Returning to a community college setting was a natural fit for her.

"I started my career as a nurse educator at a college very similar to WNC in a rural community in the Midwest. I was very interested in working in a similar campus and program setting," Dr. Auer said.

WNC's rigorous nursing program is known for producing highly skilled graduates ready to excel in healthcare settings or continue their education. Students achieve high pass rates on the national licensure NCLEX-RN exam after earning their Associate of Applied Science Degree in Nursing. In 2020, Nursing Process ranked WNC's program as No. 1 in the West Region, which included 426 nursing schools.

"I am so impressed by the wealth of



Dr. Audrey Auer: Dr. Audrey Auer joins Western Nevada College to lead its nursing program after serving as the Assistant Dean of Nursing at Arizona College of Nursing's Las Vegas campus.

knowledge and experience among the nursing faculty," Dr. Auer said. "Each one brings expertise from working as a nurse, and together they are doing a fantastic job as educators. Nursing education is a specialty that must be learned and practiced to gain proficiency. The strength of the nursing faculty is evident in the program outcomes. I am honored to work with them."

Dr. Auer's plans for the program include several exciting development projects and curriculum enhancements.

"My vision for the nursing program is to further develop the Fallon and Douglas sites to better serve rural communities," she said. "Additionally, we are working on completing the Certified Nursing Assistant and RN-Bachelor of Science in Nursing curriculums, with plans to launch these programs by the end of 2025. The foundation of the nursing program is solid, and there are many opportunities for expansion."

Dr. Auer's career highlights include teaching, developing curricula, supervising clinical

sites, and creating nursing programs such as Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP), Practical Nursing (PN), and Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Nursing. She has also built tribal partnerships and supported nursing students in achieving their goals, according to Dr. Ryan.

"We are pleased to welcome Dr. Auer to the WNC team," said WNC President Dr. J. Kyle Dalpe. "Dr. Auer brings a vast amount of professional and educational experience to this position, which will definitely benefit our students and the program overall. I also want to thank Deborah Ingraffia-Strong for overseeing the program as the interim director the past several years."

For the past three years, Nursing and Allied Health has been led by Interim Director Ingraffia-Strong, who plans to return to her full-time role as Professor of Nursing.

For more information about WNC's nursing program, visit wnc.edu/nursing-and-allied-health or call 775-445-4425.



#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT

# Churchill County Embarks on Phase I of New Water Treatment Plant

By Rachel Dahl

Churchill County Commissioners recently approved several projects for Phase I of the new Water Treatment Plant at the Fallon Golf Course.

The first project is demolishing and removing the existing sewer treatment plant located just south of the golf course. Simerson Construction was the lowest responsible bidder of nine total bids submitted to the county and will perform the work for \$692,500.

The second project in Phase I is the drilling of two water wells to feed the water treatment plant, and was awarded to Parsons Drilling for \$1,034,405. They were the only bidder. The two wells will each be approximately 400 feet deep, 14-inch cased municipal water supply wells.

Four bids were submitted for the third project, the building of the transmission mains from the new wells to the plant, which was awarded to A&K for \$2,459,095 as the lowest responsible bidder.

Commissioners also approved an amendment to the design services contract with Shaw Engineering for the design work for Phase II of the water treatment plant for \$925,000.

Funding for the projects comes from the Nevada Water Conservation and Infrastructure Initiative grant, which is primarily funded through federal allocations from the American Rescue Plan Act.

The water treatment plant will serve future growth in the county and utilize water rights that the county has acquired over the years through purchases and the Water Right Dedication Program.

# **City Council Addresses Sidewalk Improvements and Zoning Updates**

By Rachel Dahl

Several key issues were discussed at the recent city council meeting, focusing on sidewalk improvements at Laura Mills Park and zoning changes along South Taylor Street. Mayor Ken Tedford began the meeting with a moment of silence for longtime friend, City Attorney, and founding member of the Churchill Arts Council, Rod McCormick, who passed away recently.

The council held a hearing to discuss possible projects to be funded through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, addressing plans to upgrade the sidewalks at Laura Mills Park. The project would replace aging concrete pathways with ADA-compliant sidewalks to ensure accessibility for all visitors.

The estimated project cost of \$630,000 is based on current concrete prices. City Councilman Paul Harmon asked about flexibility in the proposal, including the potential use of asphalt



as a cost-saving alternative if concrete becomes too expensive.

"Our initial ask is for concrete, but we've included an option for asphalt to ensure we can move forward even if funding is limited," explained Derek Zimney, City Engineer.

The project will also include updates to irrigation systems beneath the pathways to ensure that future repairs can be completed without disrupting the new sidewalks. Zimney said he was hopeful about securing funding for the improvements.

The council also held a public hearing to consider a zoning change at 210, 220, 230, 250-252, 270, and 298 South Taylor Street from R-2 Limited Multiple Residence District to the proposed C-1 Limited Commercial District.

The plan would work to better align with the area's current and future uses by shifting specific properties to commercial zoning (C-1), reflecting their use over the years.

The council noted that while the change would not immediately impact existing residential properties, it could create parking challenges for properties when they transition to commercial use. Businesses in C-1 zoning are required to provide one parking space per 250 square feet of commercial property, which could necessitate layout changes for smaller lots.

"As these properties reach the end of their current use, redevelopment will align with the new zoning, supporting a more cohesive commercial area," explained Zimney.

## Court Denies Fernley's Claim in Suit Over Canal Lining

By Robert Perea

A U.S. District Court judge has ruled against Fernley again in its lawsuit against the Bureau of Reclamation over the lining of a portion of the TCID canal

Judge Miranda Du issued the ruling on Jan. 22, the day before oral arguments were scheduled in the case. This is the second time Judge Du dismissed the lawsuit, but after the first time, in December 2022, the city appealed to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, which ruled that Du had erred in refusing to allow Fernley to amend its complaint. The first time, the complaint was dis-

missed because the court found that its interest in the case was economic, not environmental.

The city's complaint was based on the Bureau of Reclamation's Environmental (BOR) Impact Statement for the canal lining project, which was issued in 2020. Attorney David Rigdon, who represents the city on water matters, said the draft EIS doesn't address the City's claims that it and private well owners would be harmed by the loss of water seeping into the ground from the canal because of the lining. Landowners and water rights holders David Stix, Jr. and Deena Edmonston were allowed to intervene in the case alongside the city, while the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe was permitted to intervene as a defendant.

Rigdon said a hearing in the case was scheduled for Jan. 23. He said he received an email on Jan. 22 from the attorney representing the BOR saying she had been directed by her bosses to request a 30-day postponement of the hearing and needed to know within two hours if the city would agree to the continuance. Rigdon said he replied that didn't give him time to get everyone together at city hall to make that decision on whether to agree to a continuance, and that the city was ready to go forward with the hearing.



Lined portion of Truckee Canal in Fernley. Photo by Leanna Lehman.

Shortly afterward, the judge sent out a notice issuing a ruling without a hearing. In her decision, Judge Du wrote that the court denied the plaintiffs' motion because it finds the EIS and the Record of Decision both reasonable and adequate.

In its defense, the BOR had argued that the case is moot because Phase I of the canal lining is already completed and Phase II of the project, which would involve lining more of the canal, is not currently – and may never be – funded. Fernley argued that further construction could happen at any time if additional funding became available. The court agreed on that point with

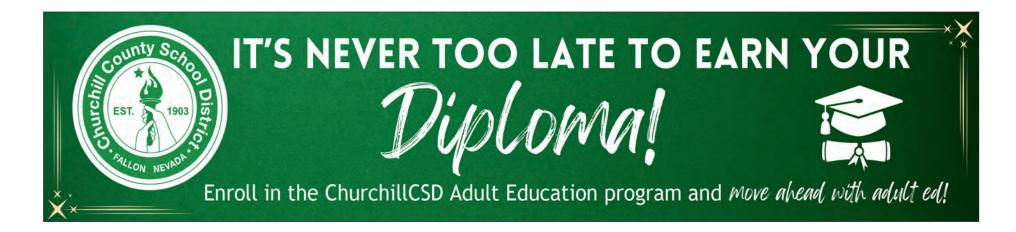
the Plaintiffs. The judge also ruled that the city did have standing in the case to present its claims.

"They kept telling us at the time they did the EIS, 'We're not going to build this for 20 years because we don't have the money to build it,' and then Congress appropriated money and they built it," Rigdon said. "So yeah, right now their argument is 'We're never gonna build Phase II or phase three because there's just not the money to do it.' Well, all it would take is Congress appropriated the money."

Judge Du rejected the city's argument that the court should set aside the EIS or ROD because the BOR declined to run more groundwater models; that the BOR lacked authority to determine the city had no right to groundwater seepage from the canal; or that the BOR had insufficiently considered the impacts of the lining project on groundwater.

It will now be up to the city council to decide whether to appeal the decision. Rigdon said the city has 60 days to file the appeal to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

"If we don't appeal within the next 60 days then then yes, the case is over," he said.



#### CHURCHILL COUNTY COURTS

THE FALLON POST

## **Tenth Judicial District Court**

Tuesday, January 21, Judge Thomas Stockard Presiding

By Teresa Moon



Sonnie Angelo Anzaldua. Photos courtesy of CCSO.

Sonnie Angelo Anzaldua appeared for sentencing on the Category C Felony of Battery Causing Substantial Bodily Harm.

Defense Attorney Robert Wieland "respectfully requested" the court grant his client probation. He explained that Anzaldua intends to relocate to Texas, has been conducting himself well, has been involved in church, is trying to set up a business coaching children in boxing, has made most of his required contacts with Court Services, claims he is no longer using drugs and has not been a problem in jail. Wieland also introduced Anzaldua's bail bondsman to offer a character statement.

Scott Robert Brower with Battle Born Bonds told the court he had known Anzaldua for three or four years. While Anzaldua failed to appear a few times, Brower said they have remained in frequent contact, and he believes probation would be a good option.

Chief Deputy District Attorney Lane Mills questioned Brower's knowledge of Anzaldua's character, asking if it was based solely on bail-related interactions. To which Brower admitted, "For the most part ... yes."

Wieland listed upcoming appointments related to Anzaldua's eye condition and emphasized his support system in Texas. Anzaldua's parents, who appeared via Zoom, assured the court that he would live with them in Arlington, Texas, where they would ensure he stayed on the right path.

Anzaldua expressed remorse for his actions, accepted responsibility, and asked for a second chance through probation.

Judge Stockard imposed a suspended sentence of 24-60 months in the Nevada State Prison and placed Anzaldua on probation for 24 months. He must remain in Nevada until the Division of Parole and Probation arranges an interstate compact. Stockard ordered Anzaldua to obtain a substance abuse evaluation within 60 days, follow its recommendations, and pay restitution of \$472.68 at \$35 per month.



Miguel Aguayo-Rodriguez.

Miguel Angel Aguayo-Rodriguez pleaded guilty to the Gross Misdemeanor of Indecent or Obscene Exposure, punishable by up to 364 days in the Churchill County Jail and a fine of up to \$2,000. If convicted, the Aguayo-Rodriguez will be required to register as a sex offender. A Psychological Risk Assessment will determine eligibility for probation on this charge. Sentencing was set for March 25.

Sara Michelle Jones admitted to Technical Sentencing Violations related to marijuana use. Deputy District Attorney DDA Priscilla Baker reminded the court that Jones was previously found guilty of

Forgery and Possession of a Credit Card Without Consent of the Owner. Baker described Jones' repeated violations, including absconding and using methadone while pregnant, continued drug use, forging medical documents, and failing to complete Drug Court.

Baker reported during her high-risk pregnancy, Jones continued to "do what she wants, "such as using and selling fentanyl and methamphetamine. "She needs to be held accountable for her actions," said Baker, who requested a 30-day incarceration with a requirement to attend the Western Regional Drug Court program.

Alternate Churchill County Public Defender (APD) Wright Noel stated that Jones admitted to using marijuana but denied using fentanyl. He requested probation reinstatement or a two-week delay for Jones to make personal arrangements.

Jones denied responding to people reaching out to her to buy drugs, requested her sentence be served at Washoe County Jail, and explained difficulties completing Drug Court due to hearing that certain medications were not allowed.

Judge Stockard remanded Jones custody of the Churchill County Sheriff's Office or ordered her to serve 30 days in the Churchill County Jail. Stockard further instructed Jones to attend Drug Court immediately and warned her of future consequences for violations.

Brett Michael Sellers, in custody, admitted to the Non-Technical Sentencing Violation of Absconding. Senior Deputy District Attorney Chelsea Sanford detailed Sellers' consecutive sentences in 2019 for Possession of a Controlled Substance and in 2022 for Failure to Appear. She requested complete probation revocation without modifications, stating, "He [Sellers] has not done anything to earn any changes."

Churchill County Public Defender (CCPD) Jacob Sommer explained Sellers' personal struggles, including the loss of three grandchildren in a fire – which deeply impacted him, and subsequent health challenges. Sommer said Sellers recently contacted a probation officer and flew to Reno, where he



Tenth Judicial District Court Building.

surrendered himself to Airport Security. "He knows this is something that he needs to take care of." Sommer requested concurrent sentencing rather than consecutive terms should the court not agree to reinstate Sellers on probation.

Sellers told the court that before the fire, they discovered cancer on his lung; he had a heart attack during a biopsy and is being treated for PTSD, is in grief therapy, and has quit smoking. Judge Stockard revoked Sellers' probation, modified the sentences to run concurrently, and remanded Sellers to custody for imposition of the sentence.

Amy Nicole Greene, in custody, pleaded guilty to the Category D Felony of Battery by a Probationer, Parolee, or Prisoner, punishable by 1-6 years in prison.

Greene was accused of biting a deputy while in custody. Judge Stockard ordered a Pre-Sentence Investigation (PSI), set sentencing for March 25, and provisionally Greene in the Western Nevada Drug Court specialty court program per CCPD Jacob Sommer's request.

Stacy Karyn Babb, in custody, admitted to the Non-Technical Probation Violations of Absconding and failing to complete Western Regional Drug Court as ordered.

DDA Priscilla Baker, who argued for probation revocation, cited a pattern of missed tests, absconding, and the fact that Babb had committed new crimes in Washoe County. "She was given chance after chance from Drug Court to take this opportunity seriously. And Ms. Babb failed to do so," said Baker.

CCPD Wright Noel noted Babb's acknowledgment of her mistakes and her intention to change. Babb accepted responsibility and expressed readiness to face the consequences.

Judge Stockard remanded Babb back to the custody of the sheriff's offices, rescinded diversion/probation, and sentenced Babb to 12-32 months in prison for the Category E Felony of Possession of a Controlled Substance.

*Derry James Beach*, in custody, pleaded guilty to the Category E Felony of Possession of a Controlled Substance (methamphetamine), a First or Second Offense, punishable by 1-4 years in prison and a fine of up to \$5,000.

DDA Chelsea Sanford stated that Beach committed the offense while on parole in Washoe County, where he is also on a custodial hold. She said that Beach has squandered his opportunities at probation and prison.

CCPD Jacob Sommer requested concurrent sentencing with the Washoe County case. Beach said he knew it was his fault; he was sick and tired of being sick and tired. He knew better, and he apologized.

Judge Stockard noted Beach's additional history of 27 misdemeanor charges and sentenced him to 12-32 months in prison to run consecutive to the Washoe County case. He was remanded to custody for imposition of sentence.

Joshua William McEvers, in custody, admitted to the Non-Technical Sentencing Violation of failing to complete Western Regional Drug Court. SDDA Sanford detailed McEvers' 6-page violation report, which includes missed and positive drug tests and multiple failed attempts at treatment. She requested a complete probation revocation. Sanford reminded the court the underlying facts are that the defendant stole a vehicle from a local business when caught, he stepped out of the vehicle with a firearm in his hand, and he is an ex-felon.

CCPD Jacob Sommer clarified for the record that his client was not trying to do anything with the gun; the gun was in the vehicle that he took, he didn't point it at anyone, he was not threatening anyone, wasn't waving it around. Sommer also said his client has tried. He is not proud of his behavior or how he conducted himself; "He does want to try again; he does want to do better," Sommer stated.

McEvers told the court he didn't know there was a gun in the vehicle, expressed fear of prison, and requested another chance. Judge Stockard revoked his probation and imposed the underlying penalty of two 19-48 month terms for Grand Larceny and Ex-felon in Possession of a Firearm. He remanded McEvers to custody for imposition of sentence.



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#### BUSINESS

## **Wilson Farrier Service**

By Nancy Chapman

Nathan Wilson, owner of Wilson's Farrier Service, has been a farrier for over 15 years. A 2013 graduate of Pacific Coast Horse-shoeing School in Plymouth, California, his motto is, "It takes a great horseman to become a great farrier."

Born in North Carolina, Nathan and his family moved to Southern California after his mother broke her back and needed more intensive medical treatment. His father, a retired US Navy Vietnam Veteran, worked as a well driller for General Pump in San Dimas, CA, until he passed from a brain aneurysm when Nathan was only seven.

Being one of three children and his mom now a single mother with medical difficulties, another move to be near family only made sense. In 1999, he, his siblings, and his mother relocated to Northeastern Nevada. After playing football in high school and being a typical kid growing up in a rural area, Nathan graduated from Mountain High School in Ely.

Eventually, Nathan found his way to horses, which had no small impact on his life. "And boy was that a lifesaver," Nathan would recall later.

As Charlie Van Norman would say, "The outside of a horse is good for the inside of a man." Nathan eventually learned this statement to be true.

While working at the Rose/Calahan Ranch, Nathan frequently rode the nearby trails to help build the horses' confidence when encountering mountain bikes - which was often. During one such ride, he met a man shoeing a horse on the blacktop. That man was Dean Tsuda, the farrier for Julie Winkle of Maplewood Equestrian Facility. Unbeknownst to either of them, this chance encounter would shape the direction of Nathan's life.

Nathan soon became an apprentice under Tsuda, awaiting acceptance into the Pacific Coast Horseshoeing School. He completed the eight-week course and soon graduated. However, he decided to continue his time at the horseshoeing school as a working student. Nathan obtained an additional 10 months of training while he served on staff.

He helped incoming students set up and prepare for their classes, took care of the dorm, and filled in wherever was needed. In the field, Nathan guided students as they learned to forge horseshoes or modify keg shoes, showing them the necessary angles required for the shoe and the horse's foot shape. To earn extra money, he continued training horses, learning that it takes a great horseman to be a good horseshoer.

Once leaving school, Nathan had the opportunity to apprentice



Nathan working on an egg bar shoe. Photo by DJDOphoto.com.

with Dave Parker, who owned a ranch in Penn Valley in Nevada County, CA. Dave's wife owned a Classical Hoofbeats Dressage facility in Santa Cruz County. Nathan's education continued as he traveled from Santa Cruz to Grass Valley, shoeing dressage horses with Dave – a seasoned farrier with over 50 years of experience in Western and English performance horses.

Working for several other private, boarding, and performance barns from Salinas to San Francisco, Nathan continued to pursue excellence in his craft, earning achievement certificates for Conformation and its Relationship to Soundness, Forge Principals and Applications, EquiAid Emergency First Aid to Horses, and Equine Anatomy. He has received several Certificates of Achievement from the International Association of Professional Farriers (IAPF) for foundation credentials and nutrition. As a member of various farrier associations, continuing education credits (CE) are required to keep his credentials current. Nathan said, "You never really master the process of horseshoeing – and by the time you do, your body starts to break down."

Nathan and his three children have made Fallon their home, and he is passing on to his children the art of being great horsemen and women. The kids regularly compete at the Fallon Horsemen's Association competitions. He encourages his kids to learn what a horse needs for their feet "because without a good foundation under a horse, there is no horse."

Nathan can be reached at wellshodwilson@gmail.com.

## MD Tree Surgery

## Certified Arborists Committed to Proper Tree Care

By Nancy Chapman

Meeting Marco DiGiacinto, owner of MD Tree Surgery. Marco and his family moved to Fallon in 1982 when he went to work for a local tree trimming and pruning business. Within a year, his experience and knowledge of trees earned him a position as the crew boss. Since then, he has taken his love for trees and turned it into a successful business with an excellent reputation in the community.

Marco is a member of the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) and ISA Certified Arborist. ISA is a non-profit organization serving the tree care industry. As a membership and credentialing entity, ISA promotes the professional practice of arboriculture. ISA supports tree care professionals through research, science, technology, and education as they continue in their field. As a certified arborist, Marco has six certification credentials, each with different requirements, earning him the highest level in arboriculture offered by the ISA.

With over 30 years of experience, Marco shared his concerns about tree health in the Lahontan Valley. "Our old-growth cottonwood and elm trees in Churchill County are being destroyed by topping and improper cutting or pruning of the trees," said Marco. "The importance of our trees and their contributions to our environment is essential."

MD Tree Surgery has contracts with the City of Fallon and the State of Nevada Highway Department to keep trees pruned and healthy. Marco says improper pruning happens when the branches are cut in the wrong location. There is a "collar" where a branch connects to the tree. Cutting into the collar damages the tree and the limb, not allowing the tree to heal correctly. This causes the tree to spend more energy repairing itself than doing its job of producing oxygen, creating photosynthesis that cleans tons of carbon from the environment, and simply being pretty.

Similarly, improper leaf pruning makes trees susceptible to diseases and parasites,

which will eventually kill the tree or, at the very least, stunt the tree and leave it looking unsightly

Topping trees or removing the canopy disrupts a tree's natural balance and ability to produce food for itself, explained Marco. Topping can cause trees to grow weak. Additionally, removing large amounts of leaves inhibits adequate photosynthesis, which the treen needs. Large open wounds created by topping provide easy entry points for insects and diseases, leaving the tree at a health risk. This is a highly damaging practice that significantly weakens the tree's structure and could lead to the tree's decline or death.

According to Marco, trees also play a vital part in a home's value. When a property appraisal is done, the number of trees is added to the property's overall value. Again, if a tree is improperly pruned or trimmed, it can weaken branches and, at some point, possibly break off and fall on homes, vehicles, or the unthinkable - on a person.

Zakkary Thomas, Foreman at MD Tree Surgery, strongly urges homeowners, other tree pruning companies, and citizens concerned about our ecosystem to check the International Society of Arboriculture website. He recommends finding an arborist with a certification number, much like a plumber or electrician contractor number, to discuss appropriate pruning or crown thinning methods.

Professional arborists spend thousands of dollars on the correct equipment to safely prune or thin a tree. The proper safety equipment is essential for the individual arborist's safety. For example, hard hats have built-in speakers for communication, and pants are designed to prevent technicians from getting entangled in the chain of a running saw. MD arborists are required to have ISA affiliation to be appropriately insured.

Marco and Zakkary emphasized caution when planting a new tree. Purchase a tree and plant based on its mature size to ensure it will be suitable for the desired area. In time, less harm will come to the tree from pruning.



Image courtesy of MD Tree Surgery.

#### **EDUCATION**

## CCSD Gool School News



Students show off their polar animal reports.

#### E.C. BEST

After completing a week of Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) testing, Rosa Sanchez's class celebrated with a well-deserved game of heads-up, 7-up. This game is a classroom classic that many students had never played before, making it a fun way for them to relax, have fun, and unwind.

#### **LAHONTAN**

Elizabeth Greenwell's class completed their informative writing unit by focusing on polar animals using Chromebooks. When introduced to Google Docs, where they created a new document, typed up their findings, and learned how to insert an image of their animal, then presented their animal reports to the class. Pictured: Evelynn Grand, Asher Campbell, Arabella Anderson, Clayton



Seven students were admitted into the ACDA All-State Choir.

Kruckenberg, and August Fordham show off their polar animal reports.

#### **NUMA**

Students in Colleen Tutty's class learned about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., focusing on his iconic "I Have a Dream" speech. This activity was a good history lesson for students, and it allowed them to think about things they could do to make a difference.

#### **CCHS**

Seven students were admitted into the 2025 American Choral Director Association (ACDA) All-State Choir on January 21. CCHS music director Melissa Weick-Juceam took 12 students to auditions from the Honor Choir. "It is a pretty challenging audition with a prepared choral piece and



CCHS JROTC presentation.

solo piece in addition to sight-reading both rhythms and songs individually," Weick-Juceam said. Pictured: Back, Dallin West, Lucas Chappell, Alexander Sorensen. Middle, Derek Lattin, Caleb West, Zander Lewis. Front, Analiese Sorensen.

#### **CCMS**

On January 22, students gathered to recognize three outstanding readers: Dominic Whiteman (51 books), Christian Wright (46 books), and Gael Martinez Juarez (41 books). Additionally, Principal Victor Schoenfeldt recognized 49 students and two teachers for perfect attendance. The CCHS JROTC presentation offered students a glimpse into what the program has to offer. For a full recap of the assembly, visit www.TheFallonPost.org. this weekend.

## Veritas Preparatory School

#### Classical & Christian

By David Ernst with photos courtesy of Veritas.

Since its inception, Veritas has been blessed with the support of numerous volunteers who have generously provided their time, energy, and services to the school in various ways. One of these supporters is Doug Faucette, who, in addition to dedicating countless hours to providing IT services, also supplied a storage container for school use. At the end of 2024, it was announced that the container would no longer be available, prompting Veritas families to search for an alternative solution.

On Wednesday, January 22, through a generous donation from Out West Buildings in Fallon, Veritas received a new 80-foot shipping container. This new storage solution will allow Veritas to conveniently store unused furniture, supplies, and equipment close at hand. Additionally, it will free up much-needed space for instructional purposes.

The students, staff, and families of Veritas are deeply grateful to Mike Stremler and Irvin Plank of Out West Buildings for their generous donation and to Doug Faucette for his continued support of the school. The Lord continues to provide for the needs of the school through the generosity of our community.



Grades 2-8 inside newly donated Out West container.

## **Bighorn Bulletin**

By Angeal Viera with photos courtesy of Oasis Academy.

#### HOT WHEELS BRING SCIENCE TO LIFE IN THE CLASSROOM

Hot Wheels cars proved to be more than just toys as fourth-grade students used them to explore physical science concepts such as energy and energy transfer through the Amplify Science curriculum.

Students raced and crashed cars on the cafeteria floor, using the activity to connect the speed of an object to its energy. Yardsticks helped measure the distances traveled, adding a quantitative element to their experiments.

"This is one of the best project-based learning units we have ever done over the years," said Raquel Feest. "This project involving Hot Wheels really lets the students be 'hands-on' in their learning about how potential energy is transferred to kinetic energy. Not only that, but the students also learn to work with a partner to collaborate and communicate throughout the whole project."

#### **BUSTER'S BEST RECOGNIZES** STUDENTS FOR EMPATHY

With the second quarter coming to a close, Oasis Academy honored students who went above and beyond with the Buster's Best Awards.

This quarter, the school focused on empathy, one of the principles of the Bighorn HERD (honesty, empathy, respect, and

determination). The honored students were celebrated during an assembly on January 22. Visit

The Fallon Post.org or the school's Facebook page for a complete list of recipients.

#### SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: FENN MACKEDON

Fenn Mackedon, a senior who has attended Oasis Academy since kindergarten, is preparing to graduate with a dual milestone:

his Associate of Arts degree from Western Nevada College and his high school diploma.

"My time at Oasis has been an exciting journey, both academically and athletically," Mackedon said.

His academic success includes earning Academic All-State recognition in every sport he played. Athletically, Mackedon has excelled in golf, basketball, and baseball. He qualified

for the state tournament in golf as a sophomore, was named NIAA Athlete of the Week in February 2024, and earned All-League Second Team honors for basketball and baseball in the 2024 season.

"I have enjoyed playing for Oasis and have improved dramatically in both baseball and basketball over the years," he said.

Outside of school, Mackedon enjoys hunting and fishing, activities that have given him some of his favorite memories. His entrepreneurial spirit also led him to launch an

apparel brand, All Terrain Threads. "One of my favorite memories from high school was going on the annual fishing trip with all my friends to Sheep Creek during the summer. It's the most amazing time in the world," he said.

Looking back on his time at Oasis, Mackedon said his favorite class was sophomore

> biology with Ms. Jackie Bogdanowicz. "That year, we had two foreign exchange students who I became friends with, and that class always seemed to go by in a flash. It seemed like every day of that class had a laugh," he said.

Mackedon also expressed gratitude for counselor Andy Lenon, who supported him through challenging and joyful moments alike. "I would like to thank Mr. Lenon. He's always been there to guide me through these past four years. He's helped

me through some hard times and laughed with me through some good ones,"

Mackedon said. As Senior Class President, Mackedon shared advice for future students.

"Don't let it go by too fast, because pretty soon you'll be graduating and trying to figure out what you're going to do with your life," he said.

After graduation, Mackedon plans to attend Montana State University to study kinesiology—and, as he noted with a smile, "most importantly, catch fish."



Fenn Mackedon.

#### **FDUCATION**

## **Exciting Week at Logos Christian Academy**



Greenwave Varsity Girls Basketball players proudly present honorary team shirts to their adopted sports sister.

Story and photos courtesy of LCA

What an exciting week we've had here at Logos Christian Academy! One of the highlights was a special visit from two Greenwave Varsity Girls Basketball players. They stopped by during lunch to meet their adopted sports sisters, and the entire student body loved getting the chance to chat with these talented young athletes and talk basketball. The varsity players presented honorary team shirts to their adopted little sisters. It was such an honor to welcome them to our school. Go Greenwave!!!

We also hosted our annual Spelling Bee last week, a favorite event that always brings out the best in our students. Meanwhile, the science fair is just around the corner, and students are hard at work on their projects. Don't forget to join us on Tuesday, February 4, from 6–7 p.m. for our annual Science Fair Night, themed "Exploring Through Science." Students from grades 3–8 will present individual projects, and our K4–second graders will showcase their class projects.

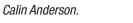
We'd like to give a big thank-you to all of our volunteer judges—we're so grateful for your help! At LCA, we're reminded daily of Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." This week has been a true celebration of learning, community, and God's blessings!

## SPORTS ROUND UP

## **CCHS** Basketball

### Lady Wave Dominates Spartans, Boys JV and Varsity Take Losses







Karlie Simper.

Story and photos by John Baker

The Greenwave hosted the Spartans of Spring Creek on Saturday, January 25. The day started with the Junior Varsity Lady Wave. The game was close through the first half, but Churchill pulled away in the second half and won 49 - 30.

The Varsity Lady Wave took the court next and never looked back. They came out strong and dominated the entire game, easily winning 65 - 24.

Next up was the JV Boys. Unfortunately, though they played a good game, they had a difficult time and lost 58 - 79. The day finished with the Varsity Boys on the court. The team was not able to seize the momentum created by the girls and wound up losing 54 - 80.

#### COLUMNS

# What's Cooking in Kelli's Kitchen Rack of Lamb for Two

In for Kelli Kelly this week, Weeknight Gourmet, Erik Jimenez



Over the last few years, it's unfortunate that we have been forced to live in a world filled with countless recipes for one-pot meals. And while these one-pot meals can be simple and easy for those of us with busy lives, they often aren't very good. If you're like me, and your sick tired of yet another recipe for unseasoned pasta mixed with overcooked vegetables and ground beef, then I'd invite to dive deeper into what's possible on busy Wednesday night.

Weeknight meals don't have to be a compromise between flavor and time. Instead, with a little technique, we can bring back the weeknight meal to its former glory. This week's recipe packs in the flavors of a tender seared rack of lamb, with fresh herbs and Dijon mustard.

This "two-pot" rack of lamb is not only easier to prepare, but it comes together quickly in the pan and can be finished in the oven to the precise temperature. We'll finish the lamb with an incredibly easy sauce that reduces pomegranate juice and stock, finishing with a zip of Dijon mustard and an emulsifying knob of cold butter.

One rack of lamb is a great size for two people, and this dish would go great with roasted potatoes and a simple herb salad. I'd also pair this with an affordable Pinot Noir.

Provecho amigos.

## Herb-Crusted Rack of Lamb with a Pomegranate Dijon Reduction

Serves 2 Time: 1 hour

#### Ingredients:

Rack of lamb, about 1.5 lbs.

2 tbsp. Dijon mustard, plus 1 additional tablespoon for later
 Heaping cup of mixed herbs (mint, parsley, thyme)

1/2 cup Panko breadcrumbs

Salt and pepper to taste Extra virgin olive oil Jarred pomegranate juice

High-quality chicken or beef stock A good knob of butter (keep it cold)

#### Directions:

1 cup 1/2 cup

- 1. Pull the rack of lamb out of the fridge and let it rest for at least 30 minutes. Preheat the oven to 425°F.
- 2. While you're waiting, prep the herb crust. In a food processor, combine mint, parsley, and thyme leaves with the breadcrumbs. And process until everything is finely chopped. Add in a glug of olive oil and salt and pepper to taste, and process one more time until combined. Set aside.
- 3. While the lamb is still resting, you can also get started on the sauce. In a small saucepan, combine 1 cup of pomegranate juice with 1/2 cup of beef stock and reduce until the sauce coats the back of a spoon. Turn off the heat, and cover.
- 4. When the lamb is no longer cold, dry any moisture off the surface of the lamb with paper towels. (This is essential to getting a good initial sear on the meat.)
- 5. Preheat a pan over medium high, add in a touch of olive oil, and sear the lamb for about 1-2 minutes on each side until browned. Remove lamb from the pan. We don't want to fully cook the lamb yet but just want to get all of the sides nice and flavorful.
- 6. Brush Dijon mustard all over the top side of the lamb. Then cover with the herb/breadcrumb mixture and press the mixture into the lamb so it sticks.
- 7. Once fully coated, place the lamb back in the pan and into the pre-heated oven until the temperature reaches 130°F-135°F (or your desired level of doneness) Once done tent with foil and let rest. The lamb will continue to cook through a little as it rests, but don't worry if you pull it out at little higher temperature by accident. Lamb has a ton of fat that tends to be more forgiving than other meats.
- 8. While the lamb is resting, finish the sauce. Warm the sauce back up and make sure it's the consistency you want (if it's too thick, you can add a tablespoon or two of water to loosen it up)
- 9. Once it's hot, kill the heat. Once off the heat, whisk in an additional tablespoon of Dijon mustard, and then mix in the cold butter to emulsify the sauce. Season with salt and pepper to taste.
- 10. Now that it has rested slice the lamb into chops. To serve, place several chops on each plate, gently pour the pomegranate sauce on the sides of the chops, and garnish with fresh mint leaves.

## Allison's Book Report

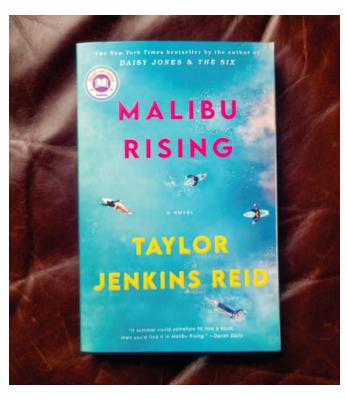
## "Malibu Rising" by Taylor Jenkins Reid

It's been cold and dreary this week, with gray skies and even a little bit of snow. January often feels like it drags on and on and as January's dreariness bleeds into February, I find myself turning my Reggae music up just a little louder and seeking out books and TV that have warm and sunny vibes. This week's book is an old favorite of mine that I think will make you feel summery and beachy, even in the depths of winter.

"Malibu Rising" by Taylor Jenkins Reid is a captivating, sun-soaked tale set in the glamorous world of 1980s Malibu. The story revolves around the four Riva siblings—Nina, Jay, Hud, and Kit—who are each dealing with their own personal struggles, all while trying to make sense of their past. At the heart of the novel is Nina, a former model who's now an established surf icon, and who's been holding her family together after their parents' tragic divorce. She's used to taking care of her siblings, espe-

cially since their famous, unpredictable father, Mick Riva (a rockstar with his own wild history), hasn't been around much.

The plot spans over a single, unforgettable day: the annual Riva family party. This party, held at the Riva estate, is the highlight of the summer in Malibu, attracting everyone from celebrities to locals. But underneath the fun, there's tension brewing. Nina is struggling with the weight of her family's legacy, Jay is trying to come to terms with his troubled past, Hud is hiding a huge secret, and Kit, the



youngest, is still trying to find her place in the world. As the night goes on, their secrets unravel in dramatic ways, and what's supposed to be a night of fun turns into something much more transformative.

But the real showstopper in "Malibu Rising" isn't just the characters—it's the way the novel captures the irresistible energy of Malibu and the lifestyle of the rich and famous, from surfboards to scandals. There's an old-school Hollywood charm, a perfect balance of beachy vibes and emotional depth. The party itself becomes a turning point for each sibling, pushing them to face their past and, ultimately, change the course of their futures.

Told with the signature storytelling style that Reid's fans know and love, "Malibu Rising" is a mix of family drama, secrets, and redemption, all wrapped up in the sun, sand, and surf of one unforgettable night. It's a fun, breezy read with

just enough emotional weight to keep you hooked from start to finish. What are you reading this week? Are you seeking out beachy summery vibe to get you through? Pop over to my Instagram page @allison.the.reader and let's chat about what's getting you through until spring and what you think I should read next!

Allison Diegel is the Executive Chaos Coordinator at the Diegel Home for Wayward Girls. She has been reading since before she could talk, and now she likes doing lots of both.

#### COLUMNS

# **PostCards**Artemesia Club

By Michon Mackedon

A few weeks ago, I brought up the fact that many citizens of early Fallon were not well pleased with the name of one of their most prominent features, Rattlesnake Hill. As a result, the local newspaper, the Eagle, challenged the Artemesia Club to find a more suitable name. But, that was another story. This story is about the so-named Artemesia Club and other local clubs which met the social needs and goals of early Fallonites, including conversation, dancing, drinking, performing rituals, engaging in philanthropy and community projects, and associating with like-minded others.

Early on in our history, most local social clubs were branches of national clubs and organizations, with roots in the nineteenth century or earlier, the majority of them for males only. During 1911 and 1912, articles in the Eagle provide details of meetings, socials and dances held by local branches of well-established national clubs: the Moose Lodge (with a membership of 104), the Knights of Pythias, the Oddfellows, Ramona Rebekah Lodge, Masonic Lodge, Order of the Eastern Star, and the Fraternal Order of Eagles. For example, we learn from the Eagle that the members of the Moose Lodge formed a Moose Band with "great success" and that the local Order of Eagles in 1911 held a "Homely Man" contest and a "Fat Man" contest. Our loyal newspaper reported that "when it came to the prize for the homeliest man, it became necessary to import talent from Reno."

Unlike the local branches of national clubs and organizations, the Artemesia Club was unique to Fallon, born of local needs and local ingenuity. It was organized in May 1909 by Mrs. F. Dunbar, the wife of a local dentist, who, along with thirty-one other founding members, pledged to develop a clean, safe haven within the city limits for the wives and daughters of the ranchers, farmers, and miners who travelled to Fallon, often for lengthy business transactions and often leaving their wives to cope with their babies and young children from the dusty confines of a wagon, buckboard, or buggy. The

13. IPA prep

Artemesia Club offered shelter, running water, electricity, companionship, warmth, or shade to all seekers, but especially to women and children. The membership was female. Later in the history of Fallon, the club raised money to fund scholarships for aspiring young women and to buy books for the local library.

Clubs unique to Fallon, like the Artemesia Club, give us an almost anthropological insight into the whims, tastes, and population trends of our pioneers. In 1906, young men in the town formed the Alfalfa Club as a meeting place for bachelors only, the town having experienced an influx of young men hired to work on the Newlands Project. In 1911, they leased rooms in the Allen House (on West Williams Avenue where the CCCommunications offices once were located) and hired a Japanese cook. Women were allowed in for parties and dances. A photograph of the interior of the clubhouse shows a meeting room dominated by a large pool table. The Eagle described an event which took place at the club's new digs: "The billiard table, comfortable chairs and cozy couches occupy the front room, while on this occasion the next three rooms were used for card tables, there being three or four in each room. Cigars, tobacco, pipes, etc., were passed frequently, and later in the evening refreshments were served," In May of 1913, the club hosted a social affair with thirty-some guests, many of whom were young, eligible Fallon ladies. The paper described the place cards as "artistic menus that included a photograph of the building on the front and blank pages for autographs of other guests." Many a marriage proposal was launched in that space. Sadly, in August 1915, the building burned to the ground. The Eagle reported, "The Alfalfa Club, which has lived and flourished in our midst with all its youth and beauty, is no more."

Other unique local clubs which give us some sense of the social lives of our early residents include the Greenhead Hunting Club (still in existence), the Five Hundred Club (for card players), the Bunyon Dance Club (self-explaining), and the Granulated Club (formed by the boys working at the beet sugar factory).

Please send your suggestions and stories to mackedon@phonewave.net.

Michon Mackedon is a native of Fallon and a retired professor of English and Humanities (WNC). She loves her family, her home, her dog, reading, writing, making good food, and sipping a glass of fine white wine. Beyond that, she refuses to be categorized.

#### Crossword By Peanut B B 12 Down Across 4. Paper art 1. Puzzle 2. Needlework 8. Star gazing 9. Paper art 3. Sightings 11. Puzzle 5. Pottery 14. Collectable 6. Interlacing 7. Needlework [Crossword answers on page 14] 10. Collectable 12. Sightings



#### LEGAL ADS



#### PETITION FOR ADULT NAME CHANGE

In and for the 11th District Court of Nevada, Pershing County, Case #27FC-NMC-2024-0297

In the matter of the application of TONISHIA RENEE MARTINSON-BELAND for Change of Name. Petitioner was born on March 3, 1992 in Fremont, California.

Petitioner has resided in Pershing County, Nevada since February is 1, 2015 and intends to live in Pershing County, Nevada indefinitely.

Petitioner's current legal name is Tonishia Renee Martinson-Beland. Petitioner wishes to take a different name. The new name Petitioner would like to take is TONISHIA AANG MINARD.

Petitioner is not requesting this name change to defraud creditors or for some other fraudulent reason.

Dated this 14th day of January, 2025.
/s/Tonishia Martinson-Beland
Lovelock, Nevada.

Published in The Fallon Post and The Pershing Post January 24 & 31, 2025 Ad #6285

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Churchill County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing on February 6, 2025, at 8:15 AM, to be held in the Commission Chambers, County Administration Building, 155 North Taylor Street, Suite 145, Fallon, Nevada, on the following matter: A Nuisance Complaint filed by Dave Strasdin against the Estates of James Mackintosh, Thomas J. Mackintosh, Lana C. Smith, and Zana Lee Ofcinik, all deceased, concerning an unoccupied home with broken windows and a foul odor, weeds, garbage and rubbish in the yard, broken and dismantled vehicles, collapsing sheds, and dead trees causing a fire hazard associated with property located at 3140 Alcorn Road, Fallon, Nevada, Assessor's Parcel Number 008-431-01.

If you cannot attend the meeting, written comments may be submitted to the County Clerk's Office, 155 No. Taylor Street, Suite 110, Fallon, Nevada 89406, before 4:00 PM on February 5, 2025 or via email to: pam.moore@churchillcountynv.gov and crystal.muschetto@churchillcountynv.gov.

Dated: January 15, 2025 PAMELA D. MOORE DEPUTY CLERK TO THE BOARD

Published in *The Fallon Post* January 24 and 31, 2025 Ad #6283

#### NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following Ordinance was passed and adopted by the Churchill County Board of Commissioners on January 15, 2025:

TITLE: An ordinance amending Titles 13 and 16 of the Churchill County Code to provide for water dedication and service connection requirements, and other matters related thereto.

SUMMARY: An ordinance amending Titles 13 and 16 of the Churchill County Code to (1) consolidate water dedication requirements within Title 13 of the Churchill County Code, (2) clarify water dedication requirements for all land development, (3) set payment-in-lieu of dedication requirements for all land development, (4) designate the purposes to which payments-in-lieu of dedication may be put, and (5) other matters related thereto.

At the final reading of the above listed ordinance, the vote was as follows:

AYES: Myles Getto, Chairman Eric Blakey, Commissioner Matt Hyde, Commissioner NAYS: None

ABSENT: N/A

Copies of the Ordinance are available at the County Clerk's Office, 155 No. Taylor Street, Suite 110, Fallon, Nevada 89406, for inspection by all interested persons.

Dated this 24th day of January, 2025.

PAMELA D. MOORE
DEPUTY CLERK TO THE BOARD

Published in The Fallon Post and The Pershing Post January 31 and February 7, 2025

Ad #6287



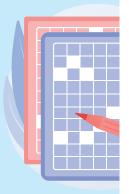
#### **CROSSWORD ANSWERS**

Crossword found on page 13

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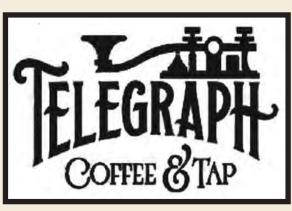
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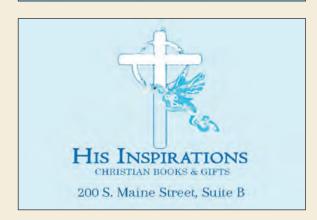




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